Sutiyapat Reservoir Project

†3319. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question No. 2965 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd August 2005 and state:

(a) the date of approval granted to Sutiyapat Reservoir Project and the date on which it was submitted to the State Finance Department for its latest costing;

(b) whether Government are making any special efforts to ensure that the project is not delayed further and commenced at the earliest;

(c) the special efforts made by Government to ensure quick approval to Kela Project and Rajiv Promotion Scheme Phase-ll; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) and (b) Sutiyapat Reservoir Project (Medium) was accepted by the Advisory Committee of Ministry of Water Resources for an estimated cost of Rs. 46.95 crore in its 80th meeting held on 7.2.2003 subject to concurrence of the State Finance Department. Irrigation is a State subject and the planning, execution, funding, operation and maintenance of irrigation projects are primarily the responsibility of the State Governments based on their priorities. Investment clearance to the project is accorded by the Planning Commission after the State Government intimates the concurrence from the State Finance Department.

(c) and (d) The major irrigation project proposals of Kela Project and the Rajiv Augmentation Scheme (Phase-ll) received from the Government of Chhattisgarh in July, 2003 and November, 2004 respectively are at different stages of appraisal. Comments on various aspects of project proposals have been sent to the State Government for compliance. The clearance of irrigation project depends upon the promptness with which the State Government arrange satisfactory compliance to observations of Central appraising agencies.

Setting up of irrigation projects in tribal areas

3320. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up more irrigation projects in tribal areas;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether tribals are basically dependent on agricultural land and therefore whether Government are aware of the fact that Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Keroput and Sundargarh hilly tribal district have source of big irrigation project; and

(c) if so.what steps are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) Irrigation is a State subject and the planning, execution, funding, operation and maintenance of irrigation projects are primarily the responsibility of the State Governments based on their priorities. Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Central Government has launched a special programme to provide 100 per cent financial assistance to the States for taking up minor irrigation schemes for Schedule Tribe land. During 2005-06 an amount of Rs.50 crore was released under this programme for providing minor irrigation facilities in the tribal areas of the States of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. During 2006-07, the Planning Commission has earmarked Rs. 150 crore for Minor Irrigation of tribal owned lands.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. The Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Keroput and Sundargarh districts of Orissa form part of erstwhile Kalahandi, Bolangir and Keroput (KBK) districts having tribal population. As such, while providing central assistance under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme(AIBP) being implemented by the Central Government since 1996-97 for expeditious completion of ongoing approved irrigation projects, the KBK districts of Orissa are considered at par with special category States and the Central assistance is provided for major/medium/ minor irrigation projects of these districts in the ratio of 90% grant and 10% loan.

Water Resources Project in Tamil Nadu

3321. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take up Water Resource Project in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the assistance proposed to be provided by the Central Government during the current year for completion of the project?